



1 January 2006

Montana Wing Observer

Mitchell recipient
Cadet 2nd Lt.
Tyler Conklin with
Montana Wing
Commander Col.
Jan Van Hoven.



FLATHEAD COMPOSITE CADET RECEIVES MITCHELL AWARD

KALISPELL Cadet 2nd Lt. Tyler Conklin was presented with the Billy Mitchell Award during Flathead Composite Squadron's Dec. 22 meeting. Montana Wing Commander Col. Jan Van Hoven officiated at the ceremony. The cadet has been a member of Civil Air Patrol since April of 2002 and is the son of Craig and Pam Conklin of Whitefish. A Junior at Whitefish High School, he is considering joining the Army National Guard and would like to train as a medic. He is employed by Ben Franklin Store in Whitefish.

MALMSTROM CADET SQUADRON CONDUCTS FOOD DRIVE

By 2nd Lt. Rita Reck, Malmstrom Cadet Squadron PAO

GREAT FALLS Malmstrom Cadet Squadron members held a food drive in December to help stock the shelves of the FISH organization. FISH is a non-profit group located in Great Falls. The letters of the word FISH in the Greek language mean "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior".

FISH was started in Great Falls in 1935. It is strictly volunteer, not federally or state funded and relies on donations from 13 churches and from private parties. They are open Monday-Friday 9-11 a.m. and serve an average of 150 families or 700 people a month.

On December 22 Malmstrom Cadet Squadron's Cadet Commander C/CMSgt Cody Reck and Squadron PAO, 2nd Lt. Rita Reck presented 51 lbs of food to the program. FISH Volunteers Liz Campo and Jane Leirdahl then gave them a tour of FISH facilities as well as the Great Falls Food Bank, which is housed in the same building. FISH rents space from the Food Bank and buys food from them to give to needy families. Cadet and SM Reck were shown how important the FISH organization is to Great Falls and how much their help was appreciated. Lt. Reck hopes to continue Malmstrom Cadet Squadron's support for the organization and hold more food drives throughout the coming year.



Left to Right: FISH Volunteers Bill Collins, Jane Leirdahl, and Liz Campo
with Malmstrom Cadet Squadron Cadet Commander Cody Reck.
(Rita Reck Photo)

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NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS OF MONTANA WING STAFF: CHIEF OF STAFF, FINANCE OFFICER, 108 PROCESSOR

2nd Lt. Rita Reck of Malmstrom Cadet Squadron, Great Falls, is assuming the position of Montana Wing Finance Officer. She will begin her orientation this month, as outgoing Finance Officer Maj. Doris Van Hoven familiarizes her with Wing finance procedures. Members should send finance-related mail to Finance Officer, Montana Wing Civil Air Patrol Headquarters, PO Box 1887, Great Falls, MT 59403-1887. Major Rob Hoffman, now of Lewis & Clark Composite Squadron, is resuming his position as Montana Wing Chief of Staff. Wing Commander Col. Jan Van Hoven is the new 108 Processor, relieving Col. Wm. Hewitt of approximately ten years of duty as 108 Processor.

"MONTANA STILL FEELS LIKE HOME FOR US" AN UPDATE FROM FORMER MONTANA WING LO ERNIE NORSWORTHY

A special category of Civil Air Patrol is the "Patron Member." Many of you remember Col. Ernie Norsworthy, who was Montana Wing LO approximately ten years ago. Seeing his name on the roster of Montana Wing Patron Members, your intrepid PAO tracked him down in Collierville, Tennessee. Here is what he wrote:

The wing has come a long way since I was the LO there. Montana still feels like home for us so we try to keep ties. We do miss everyone and the good times and the challenging SAREX scenarios I gave the wing.

I am with FedEx, for 10 years now, and have just checked out on the Airbus 300 and 310. I flew as F/O on the B-727, DC-10 and Captain on the B-727. It has been a great job. I on occasion get to fly into Great Falls and Billings. In the summer of 1996 after I retired, we got a little boy and girl, brother and sister to adopt. Well, Tyler is now almost 13 and doing well as a seventh grader here in Collierville, Tenn. (just outside Memphis). His sister, Annalisa, almost 14, did not make it with us and is still in treatment facilities in Montana. A long story short, but we have a home also in Fairfield, MT, that now is only used for summer stays. We love it there and hate to miss our winters and great friends.

Your other former LO, Ken Lamkin, is in Texas as a JR ROTC instructor and doing well. I only hear from him when I call and catch them home. Liz Law is in Dayton, Ohio, at Wright Patterson AFB. She retired last year and has a GS job on the base working for an Egyptian Colonel in some office there. She is doing fine and her son, James, is working on electrical engineering degree at college. I have been to see Liz the last two falls during trips with FedEx to Dayton. Gary Roberts is doing fine--still teaching the 6th grade in Missoula. I keep up with him and his family every so often.

Well, that is a quick and dirty rundown on us. If anyone ever passes through Fairfield in the summer, please stop by the house. We're in a little green-sided, green-metal-roofed house at 403 2nd Ave South, between the florist and credit union. We would love to see anyone...By the way we have a great little cafe, The Cozy Corner, in town. She bakes bread and pastries to die for!



WING PAO MAJ. DORIS VAN HOVEN SOLOS

On Dec. 19, an uncharacteristically calm morning in Cutbank, Maj. Doris Van Hoven, Montana Wing Public Affairs Officer, soloed in the Cessna 175 that she and her husband, Col. Jan Van Hoven, own. Formerly a student of Michelle Petrina of Glacier Flight Training, Kalispell, Maj. Van Hoven has been working with Rick Geiger of Montana By Air, Cutbank, since her move to Valier last fall.



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WIN A FREE TRIP TO SPACE CAMP

Contest Deadline is February 10, 2006

The Aerospace Education Foundation has announced a contest for which 30 Grand Prizes consisting of a trip to U.S. Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama, will be awarded. United States students in grades 4-12 are eligible for this competition, which consists of a short written essay and a Mission Patch Design. Depending upon the entrant's grade level, the maximum essay length ranges from 100 to 400 words, and each level has two space-related topics to choose from; the Mission Patch component requires hand-drawn and colored artwork. Ten prizes will be awarded in each grade category (Grades 4-6, 7-8, and 9-12). The prizes include roundtrip transportation, the Space Camp, accommodations, meals, a flight suit, and a T-shirt. Additionally, every entrant's teacher will be entered for a random drawing to win one of three trips to Space Academy for Educators. For more information about U.S. Space Camp, visit www.spacecamp.com. For guidelines, rules, and an entry form, go to

http://level2.cap.gov/documents/AEF_Space_Camp_Cont



NOMINATIONS DUE NOW FOR CADET AND SENIOR MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Now is the time to submit your nominations for both Cadet and Senior Member of the Year. Complete procedures are outlined in CAPR 39-3, Award of CAP Ribbons, Medals, and Certificates. Nominations may be initiated by any member but are processed through chain-of-command. Squadron commanders must submit their nomination packages to Wing Command by January 15. Please note that although Cadets must have attained at least the Earhart Award to be considered for National Cadet of the Year, that requirement is waived for consideration for Montana Wing Cadet of the Year, in the event there are no eligible Earhart or higher candidates.

MONTANA WING CALENDAR

New and Updated Items in RED

Find more information about listed events at www.mtwg.cap.gov

January 14, 2006

Wing Staff Meeting, Malmstrom AFB, Great Falls, MT

Jan 16-21, 2006

G-1000 Cessna Factory Training in Independence, KS

January 20-22, 2006

Surratt Memorial Winter Survival Clinic, Helena, MT

Schedule and registration form at www.mtwg.cap.gov

Jan 22, 2006

Delivery of Cessna 182T (Glass Cockpit) to MTWG

January 28-29, 2006

Unit Commander's Course, Helena, MT

February 10-12, 2006

SAR/DR/HLS/CD Training, Missoula

February 18-19, 2006

Winter Survival Training, Helena

February 25-26, 2006

Wing Cadet Competition, Malmstrom AFB, Great Falls, MT

March 2-4, 2006

Montana Aviation Conference, Helena, MT

Printable Registration Form at www.mtwg.cap.gov

March 10-12, 2006

SAR/DR/HLS/CD Training, TBA

March 18-19, 2006

Airman Leadership School, Location TBA

April 28-30, 2006

Montana Wing Conference, Billings, MT

Printable Registration Form at www.mtwg.cap.gov

May 5-7, 2006

MT National Check Pilot School Course, Helena, MT

May 13-14, 2006

Wing Leadership School, TBA

June 9-11, 2006

Montana Guided SAR, Location: TBA

June 18-24, 2006

Montana Wing Cadet Encampment, Fort Harrison or Malmstrom AFB

July 15, 2006

Quarterly Wing Staff Meeting, Malmstrom AFB, Great Falls, MT

July 22-23, 2006

SAR/DR/HLS/CD and Wing Picnic, Valier, MT

August 19-20, 2006

Mountain Fury, Location TBA

September 23-24, 2006

SAR/DR/HLS/CD, Laurel, MT